

FloodSAFE *focus*

A publication of the Department of Water Resources FloodSAFE California Initiative

Volume 3 Issue 1

April 2012

Board Announces a Series of Public Hearings to Seek input from Stakeholders on the 2012 CVFPP

The Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board) has announced its schedule for a series of public hearings in April to seek input from stakeholders and others interested in the *Public Draft 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan* (CVFPP). Additional public hearings with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) may be scheduled, if needed, before the actual adoption of the CVFPP before July 1, 2012.

At A Glance: Schedule of Board's April Public Hearings for 2012 CVFPP

April 5: CVFPB Public Hearing, Sacramento, Resources Building Auditorium, 1416 9th Street

April 6: CVFPB Public Hearing, Marysville, Yuba County Government Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers, 915 Eighth Street

April 9: CVFPB Public Hearing, Stockton, Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center, Assembly Room 1, 2101 East Earhart Avenue

April 11: CVFPB Public Hearing, Woodland, Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chambers, Room 206, 625 Court Street

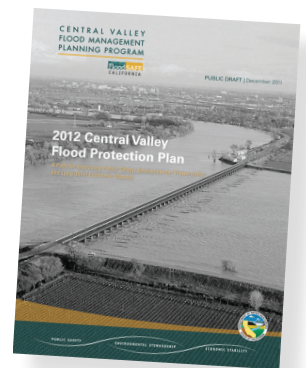
Visit www.cvfpb.ca.gov for detailed schedule

2012 CVFPP is a high-level document that will serve as a starting point for comprehensive flood management planning in the Central Valley, and it will be updated every five years. Implementation of the State Systemwide Investment Approach identified in the CVFPP will require additional regional planning, public input, feasibility-level studies, environmental review and a financing plan.

At each Board hearing, DWR will also present and receive formal public comments to the 2012 CVFPP Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DPEIR). The DPEIR describes potential program-level environmental impacts and mitigation measures related to components of the CVFPP. Public comments to the DPEIR must be received by DWR no later than 5 p.m. (PST) April 20, 2012 (see www.water.ca.gov/cvfmp).

Released to the public on March 6, the DPEIR was formally presented to the Board on March 23, 2012.

To learn about the Board's process for receipt of public and agency comments, visit www.cvfpb.ca.gov/. To view the CVFPP, the DPEIR, and other companion documents, visit www.water.ca.gov/cvfmp.



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Vision:

A sustainable integrated flood management and emergency response system throughout California that improves public safety, protects and enhances environmental and cultural resources, and supports economic growth by reducing the probability of destructive floods, promoting beneficial floodplain processes, and lowering the damages caused by flooding.

Annual Inspection Report on Levee System Integrity Now Available Online

Each year, DWR's Flood Project Integrity and Inspection Branch, in coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), inspects approximately 1,600 miles of the Central Valley watershed's levee system to evaluate the system's integrity and identify any areas requiring maintenance. Levees and associated channels and flood control structures are inspected for structural integrity, erosion, access and visibility, and rodent issues.

Inspections completed last fall determined whether deficiencies identified during spring and summer inspections had since been adequately addressed by the local maintaining agencies responsible for system maintenance. Inspectors rated each levee, channel, and structure in terms of its acceptability to USACE standards. System elements rated as unacceptable over an extended period of time were referred to the state for further action.

The ratings have been compiled in the 2011 Annual Inspection Report, now available online at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/fsir.html>. For more information, contact David Pesavento at dpesaven@water.ca.gov.



Groundbreaking ceremony on the Stockton Diverting Canal's Budiselich Flashboard Dam Improvement Project in September, 2011.

Purpose of FEMA/NFIP Community Assistance Program

Since the early 1990s, the State of California and the federal government have effectively partnered to protect Californians from potential flood losses. About 525 California communities (approximately 98 percent of communities statewide) participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This insurance is part of California's flood loss reduction strategy. DWR's FloodSAFE initiative uses funding from FEMA's Community Assistance Program (CAP) to provide local agencies with technical assistance for floodplain management questions, as well as questions about the NFIP and mapping. The state evaluates community implementation of the NFIP while also working to enhance state and community floodplain management expertise. Last year, staff audited 30 communities, conducted 25 training workshops, and provided more than 800 hours in technical assistance. The CAP, which is authorized by the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, is a 75 percent federal and 25 percent non-federal matching fund program. For more information, contact Ricardo Pineda at rpineda@water.ca.gov.

Stockton East Water District Fish Passage Barrier Removal

Work began on the Stockton Diverting Canal's Budiselich Flashboard Dam Improvement Project in September 2011. A modified channel fishway designed to improve passage for salmon and steelhead will be constructed at the site, creating a gentler channel profile that will lower water velocities, reduce turbulence, and provide sufficient water depth for fish to navigate upstream. This work was a result of the 2007 Calaveras Fish Migration Barriers Assessment Report. For the report, DWR's Fish Passage Improvement Program worked in conjunction with Stockton East Water District (SEWD) and was assisted by the California Department of Fish and Game, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Services. In late 2008, the Calaveras River Fish Group—a stakeholder group including SEWD, DWR, resources agencies, consultants, University of the Pacific, and environmental groups—assembled and voted on the priority projects for fish passage. The Budiselich Flashboard Dam was voted the number one fish passage priority. For more information on this project, please visit <http://bit.ly/wbmVzo>.

View and listen to Central Valley Flood Protection Board webcasts and recordings. Visit <http://www.cvfph.ca.gov>

Natomas Levee Improvement Program Update

By the beginning of 2012, more than 18 miles of flood management work on the Natomas Levee Improvement Program (NLIP) was completed with funds from State and local property assessments. Work on the remaining levees that surround the Natomas Basin and its 16 miles of canals will be initiated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) once the project is authorized by Congress.

The final work by the USACE will bring the Natomas Basin to a 200-year level of flood protection. While congressional authorization was not possible for 2011, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) continues to work with its local congressional delegation and others in Washington, D.C., to obtain federal authorization as quickly as possible.

Typically, levee projects are led by the USACE with a local government agency and the state participating as cost-sharing partners. However, in the case of NLIP, SAFCA initiated the project ahead of USACE through the Early Implementation Program (EIP), using state and local funds.

The EIP provides funds from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84), and the Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 1E) for flood management system improvements in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley.

Because the project has not yet been federally authorized, no federal funds have been budgeted yet. SAFCA has applied for Section 104 credits from the USACE for costs that SAFCA has incurred through early implementation that are beyond the local cost-sharing responsibility.

Four major phases make up the components of NLIP to be completed by DWR and SAFCA. Phase 1, completed by SAFCA in 2010, consisted primarily of improvements to the westernmost section of the Natomas Cross Canal south levee from the Sacramento River to east of Highway 99. Phases 2 and 3, anticipated to be complete by the end of 2012, include about 14 miles of improvements to the east side of the Sacramento River. Phase 4, currently underway, will be completed during the 2012 construction season. SAFCA's construction on the Sacramento River's east levee will end just south of Power Line Road.

Sacramento City and County, Sutter County, the American River Flood Control District, and Reclamation District 1000 formed SAFCA as a joint-powers agency in 1989 to provide the region increased flood protection along the Sacramento and American rivers.

Further information about the NLIP is available at <http://www.safca.org>.

2012 Calendar

Apr 5: CVFPB Public Hearing, 9 a.m., Resources Building Auditorium, Sacramento

Apr 6: CVFPB Public Hearing, 9 a.m., Yuba County Government Center, Marysville

Apr 9: CVFPB Public Hearing, 3 p.m., Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center, Stockton

Apr 11: CVFPB Public Hearing, 3 p.m., Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chambers, Woodland

Apr 27: Central Valley Flood Protection Board Public Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Sacramento

<http://www.water.ca.gov/calendar>

View all Central Valley Flood Protection Plan documents at <http://www.water.ca.gov/cvfpb/documents.cfm>.

Regional Planning Underpins State Systemwide Investment Approach Success

Unique in its approach, the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan promotes the State Systemwide Investment Approach (SSIA), which integrates public safety, environmental stewardship and economic stability into flood management planning. Implementation of the SSIA requires further planning at both regional and basin-wide scales. DWR plans to initiate a regional planning process, where State and local entities will work collaboratively to identify and prioritize integrated flood improvement projects. In parallel to developing regional plans DWR will initiate two basin-wide feasibility studies, one in the Sacramento River Basin and one in the San River Joaquin Basin, to evaluate larger-scale system improvements.

Local involvement with regional planning is critical because of the unique knowledge and perspective local entities bring to the table. Also, implementation of regional projects will require cost-sharing, and local financing capabilities will be a key component of the regional plans. The Regional Plans will provide input about regional priorities to the basin-wide feasibility studies, which will focus on evaluating regional and system elements that provide broad basin-wide benefits.

The purpose of the basin-wide feasibility studies is threefold: (1) to assess the feasibility of, and State interest in, major system elements and regional elements described in the 2012 CVFPP, (2) inform development of the upcoming CVFPP Financing Plan and 2017 CVFPP Update, and (3) define the State's Locally Preferred Plan for consideration in ongoing and planned federal feasibility studies.

Regional planning efforts will focus on local/regional projects within a near- to mid-term timeframe, while the basin-wide feasibility studies will focus on system elements, which may take longer to implement due to their scale and complexity.

2011 Edition of Local Maintaining Agency Annual Report (LMAAR) Released

In March, DWR's Local Maintaining Agency Assessment Section released its annual report on State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC) system levees in the Central Valley. The report contains information on maintenance issues such as rodent control, vegetation, erosion, seepage, and levee slope and crown maintenance. This program is a result of Assembly Bill 156 (2007), which requires Local Maintaining Agencies (LMAs) to report specific information related to SPFC project levees by September 30 each year. DWR summarizes the compiled information in its LMAAR, and shares the data with cities, counties, and libraries within the jurisdiction of the LMAs. DWR also organizes an annual workshop for LMAs to assist them with electronic submission of their reports. If you have questions regarding the LMAAR, please visit <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/lma.html>.

CVFED's Aerial Imaging and LiDAR Data Give Public Agencies a New Flood Risk Assessment Tool

Public agencies in California will soon have access to the most detailed topographic information ever assembled on the stream systems and physical terrain of Central Valley watersheds. DWR's Central Valley Floodplain Evaluation and Delineation Program (CVFED) is finalizing the post-processing of data developed through aerial survey imagery and base light detection and ranging (LiDAR) over approximately 9,000 square miles of the Central Valley from Redding to the Kings River. The data will provide local, state, and federal agencies with a better understanding of flood risk and enable improved mapping, risk assessment, and land-use planning. CVFED expects to notify interested agencies of the data's availability in late spring 2012. For more information or to be added to the notification list, contact Yiguo Liang at yliang@water.ca.gov.

A periodic newsletter highlighting the progress to produce the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan and the related FloodSAFE efforts within the California Department of Water Resources



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